In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing access to a plurality of authenticated electronic documents over a network comprising:

a server computer;

a user interface connected to said server via a first network interface for providing user access to said server;

a computer network ~~containing said electronic documents~~ connected to said server via a second network interface, said electronic documents being accessible through said computer network;

a database connected to said server via a third network interface, ~~for~~ said database storing data for authenticating the content of each of said plurality of electronic documents;

~~wherein~~ said first network interface, said second network interface and said third network interface being~~are~~ disjunct respective to each other such that said user interface, said computer network and said database are not in communication therebetween;

a verification server comprising first and second network interfaces for connecting said computer network and said database thereto, ~~thereto; wherein~~ said first and second network interfaces being~~are~~ disjunct such that said database is not accessible through~~to~~ said computer network, ~~network;~~ said verification server for iteratively traversing said database and retrieving said authentication data corresponding to a next one of said electronic documents, retrieving said electronic document via said computer network, checking the authenticity of the content of said electronic document using said authentication data, and updating the database with a status of the authenticity of said electronic document;

said server configured so that upon receipt of a user request for a document, said server queries said database as to whether said requested document is indexed therein and returns a denial if said requested document is not indexed in said database, otherwise said server retrieves said requested document via said computer network, confirms the authenticity thereof and returns the contents of the requested document to the user if the requested document is determined to be authentic;

wherein said apparatus provides a user access to a plurality of

authenticated electronic documents available through ~~from~~ said computer network and prevents the user from directly accessing said computer network.

2. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said access is limited to selected documents.

3. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said access is selective based on the user.

4. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said computer network is a public network.

5. (Original) An apparatus as for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said computer network is a private network.

6. (Original) An apparatus as for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said computer network is the Internet.

7. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 further comprising a router connected to said user interface, said computer network, said server computer and said verification server for forwarding data packets from said computer network to said server computer and said verification server.

8. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 7 further comprising a high speed switch connected between said router and said server computer, said database and said verification server for providing data transmissions therebetween.

9. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 further comprising a router connected to said user interface and said server for transmitting data therebetween.

10. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said database contains for each said electronic document indexed information for identifying and authenticating said document and a status indicator for storing the status of the authenticity thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said apparatus is scalable.

13. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said database is updatable.

14. (Original) An apparatus for providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 1 wherein said user is a computer.

15. (Currently amended) A method for providing access to a select group of authenticated electronic documents over a network comprising the steps of:

reviewing the content of each of a plurality of electronic documents to determine whether said electronic document is acceptable based on a review of the subject matter thereof;

generating seed values for each of said electronic documents deemed acceptable for use thereafter in authenticating copies of the content of said electronic document;

~~a)~~ initializing a database by storing indexed information for identifying and authenticating each of said electronic documents deemed acceptable, the indexed information including the seed values corresponding to said electronic documents ~~therein~~;

~~b)~~ receiving a ~~user~~ request from a user for an electronic document;

~~c)~~ searching and retrieving from said database said indexed information for ~~identifying and authenticating~~ said requested document, returning a denial for said request if said requested document is not indexed in said database;

~~d)~~ accessing said network and retrieving the content of said requested document;

~~e)~~ calculating a checksum for the content of said retrieved document;

~~f)~~ comparing said checksum with said authenticating information for authenticating the content of said retrieved document;

~~g)~~ returning the content of said retrieved document to said user if the content of said retrieved document is authenticated;

~~h)~~ returning a refusal to said user if the content of said retrieved document is not authenticated; and

~~i)~~ updating said authenticating information for said document in said database ~~with the authenticity status thereof~~based on the results of said comparing.

16. (Currently amended) A method of providing access to a select group of authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 15~~claim 14~~ further comprising the steps of:

~~a)~~ iteratively traversing said database and retrieving said indexed information for identifying and authenticating a next one of ~~each of~~ said electronic documents;

~~b)~~ retrieving from said network the content of said next one of said ~~indexed~~ electronic documents;

~~c)~~ calculating a checksum for the content of said retrieved document;

~~d)~~ comparing said checksum with said authenticating information for authenticating the content of said retrieved document; and

~~e)~~ updating said database with the authenticity status of said document.

17. (Currently amended) A method of providing access to authenticated electronic

documents over a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the step of calculating a checksum for the content of said retrieved document further comprising the steps of:

~~a)~~ retrieving said ~~indexed~~ seed values ~~numbers~~ for said electronic document from said database;

~~b)~~ traversing a forward pass of the data stream of the content of said retrieved document and calculating a first value for each position in said data stream using said seed numbers;

~~c)~~ traversing a reverse pass of the data stream of the content of said retrieved document and calculating a second value for each position in said data stream using said seed numbers; and

~~d)~~ summing said first value and said second value.

18. (Currently amended) A method of providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the step of calculating a checksum for the content of said retrieved document further comprising the steps of:

~~a)~~ retrieving said indexed seed values ~~numbers~~ for said document from said database;

~~b)~~ initializing values for said checksum and a start counter to zero;

~~c)~~ initializing a length counter equal to the length of the content of said retrieved document; and

~~d)~~ traversing the content of said document character by character, adding to said checksum a first calculated value and a second calculated value for each character thereof wherein said start counter is incremented and said length counter is decremented for each said character traversed.

19. (Original) A method of providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network as defined in claim 15 wherein said user request is received from a computer.